"years ago, by a consultancy agency, had indicated diversion of kerosene at different points, particularly through wholesalers for the purpose of adulteration and sale in black market, etc. on account of high price diffeential between Kerosene and Diesel. Central Government has taken a number of steps to check diversion and adulteration, and as retail distribution where mostly diversion takes place, is the responsibility of State Government, they have also been advised to retionlise the system of distribution and to plug loopholes to prevent diversion and adulteration. The decision about adjustment and revision of prices of different petroleum products is yet to be taken.

Coal-Bcd Methane Potential in the Country

1979. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to stale:

(a) the coal-bed methane potential in the country;

(b) the likely reduction in demand of oil if the same can be explored and used;

(c) the exploration jobs carried out at present by ONGC;

(d) the location of the sites and status of exploration in these areas; and

(e) the further action plan for exploration of coal-bed methane in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The current estimates of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in the country have been tentatively placed at about 1000 billion cubic metres.

(b) Reduction in oil demand, will depend upon the extent ot substitution of petroleum products by the CBM as and when produced commercially.

(c) ONGC has acquired 80 GLK of 2D seismic data and drilled 2 R&D wells for CBM exploration in Durgapur depression of Raniganj basin, West Bengal. Recently another location in Parbatpur block of Iharia Coal field has been taken up for drilling.

(d) and (e) The following coalfield areas have been identified for exploration of CBM:—

1. Raniganj
2. Jharia
3. East Bokaro
4. West Bokaro
5. Sohagpur
6. Satpura Basin
7. North Karampur

Government has recently approved a new policy for exploration and exploitation of CBM, which provides for global competitive bidding for granting licences for exploration and exploitation of CBM, a fiscal and contractual framework for this purpose and specific incentives to investors.

Acute Shortage of LPG Cylinders

1980. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of LPG cylinders in several parts of the country;

(b) if so, the areas where shortage has been reported;

(c) the reasons for the current shortage; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to augment the supply of LPG cylinders?